

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Webb, U.S. Patent 5,831,149.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Webb, U.S. Patent 6,029,505.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Langner, U.S. Patent 6,171,025 B1.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strock, U.S. Patent 5,884,657.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been canceled. Independent Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate therein the recital of canceled Claim 5. Claim 6 has been amended to render it dependent from amended independent Claim 4.

Accordingly, the application now contains amended independent Claim 4, amended Claim 6 depending therefrom and dependent Claim 7 depending from Claim 6.

In accordance with the Examiner's statement that Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof with a view to allowance is respectfully requested.

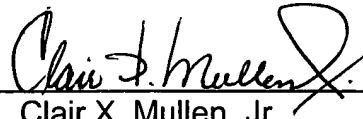
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 29, 2004

By: _____

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Clair X. Mullen, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Clair X. Mullen, Jr.
Reg. No. 20,348